

KENTUCKE GAZETTE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1787.

To the Honourable the SPEAKER and MEMBERS of the two HOUSES of GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The PETITION and REMONSTRANCE of the SUBSCRIBERS FRESHMEADS, and INHABITANTS of the City of RICHMOND, and County of HENRICO; Humbly Sheweth:

THAT with minds filled with the deepest anxiety and distress at the alarming consequences of an act passed at the last Session of General Assembly, intituled "An act imposing new Taxes," your Petitioners and Remonstrants find themselves impelled to appear before the Legislature, in vindication of their inalienable Constitutional Rights, and in opposition to a Law that has for its basis, principles which we humbly conceive are repugnant to equal right, common justice, and sound policy. That while in the debate, but firm language becoming freemen to use and the Legislature to hear, we offer our objections to the act in question; it is with peculiar regret, we lament the necessity of remonstrating against a measure which has for its object the discharge of the national Debt, the support of Public Credit, and a provision for the Emergencies of Government, because well aware of the public necessities we are sensible of the difficulties that attend in the adoption of measures best calculated to answer the great purposes, and under these apprehensions would with cheerful contribution afford our equal and common proportion upon every requisition of the Legislature, except those, an acquiescence in which might establish precedents dangerous to the Peace, Liberty, and Happiness of our country, and incur to us the just Reproaches of Posterity for betraying those Rights, which by every Principle of Honour, we are bound to guard and maintain.

We therefore remonstrate against the act, intituled "An act imposing new Taxes," as unjust, impolitic, and unconstitutional. As unjust—

BECAUSE it imposes a tax on Houses in Town, not imposed on Houses in the Country, which is at once unequal and partial, and a departure from that wise & unerring axiom of politics, that the measure of all public burthens should be equal and general, not partial and particular.

BECAUSE also those who impose this tax do not feel the unequal weight, and the above are under no restraint to abstain from oppression, contrary to another wise principle, that the governors and governed should contribute equally to the support of government, and feel in common all its burthens.

BECAUSE also the tax imposed upon clerks of one third their fees being founded upon the principle that the fees are too high, is derogatory to the Honour of the Legislature, inasmuch as it continues an avowed injustice in order to derive a contemptible increase to the public revenue, whilst we conceive the true policy of the Legislature ought to be to render the fee-bill equally by granting to the clerks no greater reward than their services merit, and thus removing the justice of the Law, take away the temptation to sanction it for the purposes of Revenue.

BECAUSE also the Tax upon wheels, being beyond every rule of proportion, is an arbitrary restraint on the free use of property, while the Tax on professions is equally so of the exercise of those talents with which the Giver of Nature has endowed his creatures, and therefore the said taxes are subversive of Common Right.—And,

BECAUSE also whilst the payment of other taxes, for the convenience of the people, made commutable in Tobacco and public Securities, the Taxes imposed by this Law, are, as if designed to be marked with peculiar inequality and hardship, made payable in Specie only.

We also Remonstrate against the said act as impolitic for the following reasons:

BECAUSE it establishes a dangerous and alarming discrimination in the mode of Taxation, and moreover operates to discourage the growth and increase of Towns, the establishment of Manufactures, the improvements and progress of Science, and the free exercise of the human faculties in those laudible pursuits which tend as well to the honor and utility of the community, as the advantage of the Individual, contrary to the policy of every wise Government.

It establishes a dangerous and alarming Discrimination in the mode of Taxation, because by the operation of the Law for equalizing the land-tax, lands in the country continue to pay a fixed per cent. Upon their averaged value without regard to their

present or future state of improvement, whilst lots in Town are by this act subjected to pay an increased Tax for all additional improvements; and moreover by being a departure from the equal principle of assessment, *ad valorem*, to the adoption of one founded on supposed local advantage, which being dependent on mere opinion, may be extended to answer every purpose of inequality and oppression, by changing and directing both its object and amount, so that we may quickly expect to see, for the same principle will justify it, that Dwellings contiguous to navigation, Counties situate upon Rivers, and farms convenient to Cities, shall be subjected to Taxes, from which the more distant Counties will be free.

It tends to discourage the growth and increase of Towns, because it takes from the individual that hope of profit which is his only inducement to build upon and improve his unenanted and uncultivated Lots; and whenever that Profit is taken away, by whatever cause, the resulting effect we have stated, is, in our opinion, inevitable.

It tends to defeat the establishment of Manufactures, because they cannot be established but in Towns, where the support and endeavours of all its various branches may be conducted and directed with uniformity, decision, and effect; and the same cause which discourages the one will ultimately also defeat the other.

It tends to check the improvement and progress of Science, and the free exercise of the human faculties, by a discrimination of professional men as the objects of Taxation, whose endeavours redound to the honor and advantage of every Community, and which cannot be effected but by the free exercise of those Talents which are the bountiful gifts of Heaven, and which, it being impious to disuse, no human Laws should or ought to restrain: And because too this objection will be found more strongly to apply when the principle of this Tax is extended to men of every calling, trade, or profession, as it certainly must and will if suffered to exist, thereby shifting the weight of the public burthens from all men generally and equally, to those of particular descriptions, unbinding the barriers of Government, and prostrating every principal of the social Compact.

We also remonstrate against the said act as unconstitutional for the following reasons:

1st. BECAUSE by the third Section of the Bill of Rights it is declared that the people have an equal claim to the common benefit, protection, and security of Government; of course the rule and principle of all Legislative Acts ought to be general and equal, not partial and particular.

2^{dy}. BECAUSE by the wife principle of the Bill of Rights which provides "that no man or set of men are intitled to exclusive or separate emoluments from the Community," it is inseparably inferred that no man or set of men can or ought to be subjected to exclusive or separate burthens or inconveniences, otherwise inequality might be the rule of Government whenever political expediency should suggest, inasmuch as particular burthens on a particular class of Citizens, must always operate to the general exemption of the other Citizens from their equal participation in the burthens of Government; And this We humbly conceive, is the direct, obvious, and certain consequence of the act in question.

3^{dy}. BECAUSE this act by being unequal, partial, and particular, is a departure from the fifteenth Section of the Bill of Rights which declares "that no free government can be preferred to any people but by a firm adherence to Justice." And it is equally inoffensive to the governed whether this departure be found in the acts of the Legislature which establish an unequal mode of participation under the common burthens of Government, or in those which by choaking the fountains of justice render our jurisprudence an Evil rather than a Good.

LASTLY. We Remonstrate against the said act as true friends to the constitution and Government under which we live, solicitous to preserve the Rights and privileges secured to us by the late glorious Revolution, at the expence of the best blood and treasure of our country, and anxious to avoid that innumerable train of evils consequent on Disunion, Dissension, and Discord, which, we fear, are inevi-

table from a farther continuance of the measure in question.

For all which reason, your PETITIONERS and REMONSTRANTS humbly pray that the act, intituled "An act imposing new Taxes," may be repealed.—And,

FINALLY, That an all-wise and gracious Providence may enlighten your minds and direct your measures to the advancement of his Honor and the true Interest and happiness of your Constituents And We, as in duty bound, *Shall, &c.*

Extract of a letter from Petersburg Dec. 10.

"Accounts are received from Captain Imayloff Governor of Kamtschatka, that two armed ships, under English colours, from the coast of America, with a cargo of furs were put into the island of Metni, that on their arrival they were not allowed to land or even traffic for fresh provisions, but after making the prince some valuable presents of European articles they had entered into a league of friendship with him for the carrying on a traffick with the Japanese for the disposal of their cargoes, which chiefly consist of furs, that before the ship which brought the intelligence sailed from Metni, they had made several voyages to the coast of Japan, and met with great success; that they were preparing to leave some of their people on the island to whom the prince had promised protection, and had actually betrothed one of his daughters to the supercargo, who was to be left in the island as commander of the party for the carrying on a correspondence with the Japanese and the Kurile Islands."

Extract of a letter from Trieste Jan 20.

"The Imperial frigate *Jacobine*, Captain Leraude, of 26 guns, has just brought in here an Algerine galley, mounting 18 guns, and carrying 86 men, which she took off the point del Nicotia, after an engagement of forty minutes, in which the barbarian lost several men. This vessel has been long on the Tyrranean coast, and taken a variety of vessels."

Extract of a letter from Malaga, February 1.

"The Portuguese man of war, *La Languaire*, has nearly scoured the coast of the Barbary corsairs, with which they have been long very long infested; two of those vessels, under the Saletine flag, have been sent in here, and will be conveyed to some of our most faithful Majesty's ports as early as possible. By way of reprisals, their crews will be sent into slavery."

Extract of a letter from Constantinople, March 6.

"The Divan are not very well pleased with the overtures which the Emperors has made them, that they should cede Bessarabia as a dependent state of Crimea. This request puts a war beyond a doubt. The Ottoman Minister has declared, that after a close and strict examination: to the conduct of the Pacha of Agiska, he has not found him guilty of anything deserving punishment; and he cannot therefore consent to the requisition of Russia to give him up. As to the Emperors establishing a Consul at Varna, the Divan cannot be responsible for the people, nor have it in their power to correct abuses which they may commit in their hours of blind indignation. And as Russia will not be satisfied with these representations, the Divan considered it as their duty to prepare for the worst. The levies of land forces, the equipment of fleets, appointments of Generals, &c. every thing speaks an approaching war. On the 22d of February, Ismael Pacha left Constantinople to go to Oranokor, and take the command of 19 regiments, who will be ready to march in a few days. Three other Generals, at the head of 20,000 men, are to go to Crimea; and a fleet sailed on the 28th of February, to complete the expedition. This fleet is composed of 10 ships of the line, and is to be reinforced by 300 smaller vessels, and to be commanded by Admiral Cissek Eivasse Oglu. These are not vain preparations; what passes in Hungary shews that matters are come to a crisis. Orders are given for 100,000 men to advance towards that quarter of the frontiers which is most exposed; the foreign powers are begun to buy themselves. France has declared, that in case Russia persists, she will be the cause of a general rupture, as the French will be obliged to assist the Turks."

Letters from Vienna say, on the 28th of March last the Emperor caused the following notice to be sent to the French Minister: That he received with pleasure the French king's declaration of the 19th, of his determined intention to preserve the peace of Europe; but that, as great disputes still subsisted between the Porte

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